

Claims

We claim:

- 1 1. A method for notifying an electronic address of the presence of physical mail in a
2 designated mailbox comprising:
3 detecting at least one piece of mail in the mailbox;
4 mapping the mailbox to the electronic address; and
5 transmitting an electronic notification to the address indicating the presence of the
6 at least one piece of mail in the mailbox.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising detecting a weight of the at least one
2 piece of mail in the mailbox.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising determining whether to send a
2 notification to the address based on the weight information.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the detecting is performed manually.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the detecting is performed electronically.
- 1 6. A method for managing a mailbox adapted to receive physical pieces of mail
2 comprising:
3 electronically detecting the presence or absence of at least one physical piece of
4 mail in the mailbox to generate a detection event; and
5 transmitting the detection event to a predefined electronic address.
- 1 7. An apparatus for comprising:
2 at least one mailbox, wherein the mailbox is adapted to receive at least one
3 physical piece of mail;

4 a detecting means associated with the mailbox, wherein the detecting means is
5 adapted to detect the presence and absence of the at least one physical piece mail in the
6 mailbox and transmit signals indicating the presence or absence of mail in the mailbox;
7 and

8 a processing means for receiving the signals from the detecting means.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising a means for transmitting an
2 electronic notification indicating the presence of the at least one piece of mail in the
3 mailbox.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the detecting means is electronically activated.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the detecting means is manually activated.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising a means for weighing physical pieces
2 of mail in the mail box. .

1 12. A computer program product for notifying an electronic address of the presence
2 of physical mail in a designated mailbox comprising:

3 a recording medium;

4 means, recorded on the recording medium, for detecting at least one piece of mail
5 in the mailbox;

6 means, recorded on the recording medium, for mapping the mailbox to the
7 electronic address; and

8 means, recorded on the recording medium, for transmitting an electronic
9 notification to the address indicating the presence of the at least one piece of mail in the
10 mailbox.

1 13. The product of claim 12 further comprising means, recorded on the recording
2 medium, for detecting a weight of the at least one piece of mail in the mailbox.

1 14. The product of claim 12 further comprising means, recorded on the recording
2 medium, for determining whether to send a notification to the address based on the
3 weight information.

1 15. A computer program product for managing a mailbox comprising:
2 a recording medium;
3 means, recorded on the recording medium, for electronically detecting the
4 presence and absence of at least one physical mail piece in the mailbox to generate a
5 detection event; and
6 means, recorded on the recording medium, for transmitting the detection event to
7 the address.

2025.10.24.14.14.14